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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/501,894

FILING DATE: *September 09, 2003*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US04/29522*

Certified by

Jon W Dudas

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
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PTO/SB/16 (02-01)

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

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INVENTOR(S)					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
ACTIVE PULL-UP					
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
Direct all correspondence to:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number				→ Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here	
OR Type Customer Number here					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI, THOMSON LICENSING INC.				
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages	1	<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number.				FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.				07-0832 160	
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

Date

9/9/03

TYPED or PRINTED NAME

Brian J. Cromarty

REGISTRATION NO.
(if appropriate)

see attached

Docket Number:

PU030268

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USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

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15535 U.S. PTO
60/501894

09/09/03


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Active Pull-up

The DM3 design includes a feature to allow EEPROM reads and writes without powering the entire board. In this mode, an external device (Chipper Check for instance) will power the EEPROM only. However, without power to the entire DM3, the pull-ups on the I2C lines will effectively become pull-downs.

This problem is addressed by the current invention which electrically disconnects the pull-ups when there is no power to the DM3. Figure 1 shows a schematic of an embodiment of the invention. The external device would then provide the pull-ups

When 5V and 3.3V are supplied by the DM3, this circuit provides the required pull-up through the collector-emitter of the transistor. Connecting the base of the transistor to 5V ensures the transistor is always saturated and therefore the drop from collector to emitter is only about 0.2V.

When the DM3 is not powered, the 5V and 3.3V connections are essentially at ground. This causes the base-emitter of the transistor to be reverse biased when an external pull-up is used. The reverse bias of the base-emitter electrically disconnects the I2C line from the DM3 supply.

This invention is not restricted to I2C lines. It can be used for any line that requires isolation from a pull-up when power is not supplied.

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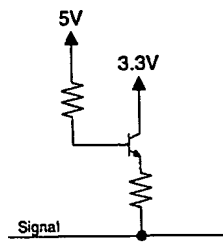


Figure 1. Active pull-up schematic.

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